

Dating Guidelines

These are some helpful guidelines to consider when dating. They are not strict laws but rather they are wise principles to follow.

1. There is a difference between dating and going on dates.
2. If you are not old enough (i.e. ready for marriage) you should not date or go on dates. Instead, you should keep everything in groups until you are at a place where dating makes sense. You are welcome to 'like' each other, and others to know about it, but keep socialising in groups and don't do any romantic dating or paring off.
3. You should never date a non-Christian: ever.
4. If you are a young believer you should probably focus on your relationship with God before pursuing a relationship with someone of the opposite sex.
5. Men must be free to ask women to go on a date with no pressure or expectations.
6. Women must be free to say, 'No, thank-you' with no explanation required.
7. Women should not initiate a relationship.
8. Men should not randomly ask many different women to go on dates, but must be honourable.
9. It is possible to go on a few dates with a person, and develop a friendship that feels like its going somewhere, but it ends up not, and you still stay friends afterwards. This will take huge maturity. After having had a 'no future' conversation, men should move on – with no stalking afterwards; women should move on – with no sulking afterwards.
10. Leaders, friends and other church members should not ask anyone going on a date to 'take it to God' in order to get His confirmation, or to find out what God is saying about it.
11. Leaders should not lead outsiders (new people that are not yet members) in regards to dating or going on dates.
12. Leaders, friends and other church members should NEVER suggest a match. No match-making.
13. Leaders, friends and other church members should not put pressure on people going on a date, or newly dating couples, regarding their future. (Especially to women – no talk of engagement, marriage, babies, surnames, what's happening, etc.)
14. When on a date, never tell the other person what God is saying to you about them. At a wise point in a dating relationship, you should share your God thoughts. If those include marriage you should read the document 'Things every dating couple should ask before getting engaged', before delving in.
15. Be holy. When dating (and very obviously when out on dates) there should never be any sexual contact or sin of any kind, ever. Kissing with a tongue is sexual. Sexual

thoughts, speech, smses, emails, etc. are a no-go.

16. Men and woman should stop overlooking good men and women that God has brought in front of them. It is not wise to wait for Mister or Miss Perfect! Look at whom God puts in front of you.
17. There should be others that share your feelings. It should not be only the two of you that celebrate your relationship.

Here are some questions that Mark Driscoll put together to help you evaluate your relationship.

Questions for men

1. Are you overlooking good women?
2. Do you honour God when you are with her?
 - A good guy wants to get into her family and friends; earn the favour of her people.
 - A bad guy wants to take her away.
3. Is she modest? If she likes your attention she will want everyone else's too.
4. The man is to be the head; will she follow you, will she let you lead her?
5. Does she have noble character? Character counts.
6. Can you provide for her?
7. Is she the woman in Proverbs who is quarrelsome, a nag, fighting, arguing, unfaithful, loud and overbearing?
8. Do you want your daughters to be like her and your sons to marry someone like her?

Questions for women

1. Do you want to help him and join his course of life ([Gen. 2:18](#); [1 Cor. 11:9](#))?
2. Is he tough enough to remain strong in tough times ([2 Tim. 2:3](#))?
3. Will he take responsibility for you and your children ([1 Cor. 11:3](#))?
4. Is he considerate and gentle with you ([1 Peter 3:7](#))?
5. Will he be a good father ([Ps. 127:3-5](#); [Eph. 6:4](#))?
6. Is he a one-woman man ([1 Tim. 3:2](#))?
7. How valuable are you to him?
8. Do you want your sons to be like him and your daughters to marry someone like him?

We hope these help you as you look to form godly relationships which are pleasing to the Father. This isn't a complete list, and there are other things you'll learn along the way from other people, books, sermons, etc. but make sure you follow a God-honouring way in this area for God's glory, which will end up being for your joy.